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THE WORLD
IN MINIATURE;

EDITED BY

FREDERIC SHOBERL.

Russia,

BEING

A DESCRIPTION

OF THE

CHARACTER, MANNERS, CUSTOMS, DRESS,
DIVERSIONS, AND OTHER PECULIARITIES
OF THE DIFFERENT NATIONS,

INHABITING THE

Russian Empire.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

ILLUSTRATED WITH

Seventy-Two Coloured Engravings.

VOL. I.

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КОЛЛЕКЦИЯ РЕДКИХ КНИГ
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PREFACE.

An empire twice as extensive as Europe, occupying one ninth part of the continent of the Old World, and a twenty-eighth of the whole surface of the globe—an empire which has gradually swelled to such immense magnitude by successive conquests and acquisitions—must necessarily comprise a great number of nations,

widely differing in person, language, character and manners. In this respect no country presents such variety as Russia—part of its population vying in the refinements of civilisation with the inhabitants of the most polished countries, while other portions exhibit all the intermediate degrees of culture, down to the rudest barbarism of the untutored savage. It is the most remarkable features in the moral and physical character of this heterogeneous assemblage that these volumes attempt to pourtray.

The rapid progress which Russia

has made in the space of little more than a century in the arts of peace as well as those of war; the vast accession of power and political importance consequent on the diffusion of knowledge and the encouragement afforded to the arts and sciences; her successful efforts during the last great struggle with that ambitious spirit which grasped at nothing less than universal dominion; the preponderant influence which she has acquired on the counsels of Europe; and her attitude at the present moment, when, faithful to the principle of omitting no opportunity to

humble her southern neighbours, her government has posted numerous armies on the Turkish frontiers—all these considerations cannot but awaken a strong curiosity in regard to the elements by means of which this power, influence and importance have been obtained and consolidated.

The Editor therefore ventures to anticipate in behalf of these volumes a reception not less favourable than the preceding divisions of the WORLD IN MINIATURE have experienced. The same care has been bestowed upon the compilation; while a glance

at the numerous graphic embellishments will prove, that in spirit, fidelity, and elegance of execution in general, they are in no respect inferior to those which adorn the former portions of the series.

RUSSIA

In Miniature.

INTRODUCTION.

History furnishes no precedent of a State so extensive as Russia. Neither Alexander the Great nor the Roman emperors, neither Tamerlane nor Charles V. numbered so many subject nations. Twice as large as all Europe, Russia stretches from the Pacific, to the Frozen Ocean and the Black Sea, from the most temperate to the most frigid

climes. Ten centuries has this empire been acquiring that colossal magnitude which now excites the astonishment of the world. At any rate, it is not till the ninth century that the genuine history of Russia commences. All that we know of preceding times is confined to some migrations and wars between barbarous nations.

Four different races anciently inhabited the territory of Russia, which was then comprehended in Sarmatia. These were: the *Venedes*, or *Vandals*, of Slavonian descent, who occupied the country from the Vistula to the isle of Oesel and thence to the Valdai; the *Bastarnes* and *Alanes* in Podolia, Volhynia, and the governments of Smo-

lensk, Moscow, Kaluga and Tula, the same nation that in Little Russia was called Roxolans; the *Hamaxobites*, of Tartar race, on the right bank of the Wolga; and lastly the *Jazyges*, genuine Sarmatians, on the right bank of the Don. Among these four chief nations there were several smaller tribes whom it is not worth while to enumerate. In consequence of emigrations and other changes, the Slavonians became the most powerful nation of Russia, where they maintained their ground and handed down many of their customs to their posterity, the modern Russians.

The Slavonians were a barbarous race, though their language resembled that of the most polished nation of an-

tiquity, the Greeks. Their religion was a rude idolatry, mingled, nevertheless, with notions worthy of ancient poesy. They peopled all the elements with deities, subordinate to the Supreme Being, whom they adored by the name of *Peroun*, or *Perkoun*, and under the forms of an idol with a silver head, golden ears, a wooden body, and iron legs. Human victims were frequently sacrificed to him. The Slavonians had a peculiar veneration for forests and waters: their superstition animated the sea with a species of naiads, called *Roussalki*, who were endowed with all the charms of beauty; and the forests with malignant beings, who could assume at pleasure the form of

giants, or of pygmies. These evil genii act an important part in the ancient tales to which the lower classes of the Russians listen with delight, during the long evenings of winter. At Kiew, in the isle of Rügen and in other places, particular divinities were adored. The funerals of the Slavonians were accompanied with festivities called *trizna*, some traces of which are still to be found among the Russians. In some provinces the festival of the god Koupalo, who presided over the productions of the earth, is yet celebrated at the summer solstice, though the spirit of Christianity has given a different destination to that superstitious practice. The Slavonians dwelt in

wooden huts, the interstices of which were stopped with moss. To this day the lower classes of the Russians have no other habitations even in several large towns. Upon the whole the Slavonians resembled all other uncivilized nations. Procopius, a writer of the fourth century, was the first historian who gave them the appellation of Slavonians; but they performed no action of note, unless it be the founding of the cities of Kiew and Novogorod.

The ninth century changed this order of things. A band of Scandinavian pirates, crossing the Baltic, landed on the Russian coast, subdued these tribes and settled among them, first on the Neva, and afterwards along the

Dnieper. We perceive from the history of those times that this nation was called the Waregues or Waringues. As to the name of Russians, it is not yet settled whether it was peculiar to a Scandinavian or a Slavonian tribe.

Rurik, the leader of the Waringues, was the first prince of Novogorod, the only town of Russia that then deserved to be reckoned among the great cities of Europe. Rurik's successors gradually aggrandized and consolidated the feeble state which he had left them. Oleg, who immediately followed him, penetrated to Constantinople and levied tribute on the Greeks. The Scandinavians were soon blended into one nation with the Slavonians. The latter,

though naturally disposed to adopt the manners and customs of foreigners, nevertheless retained their own, and the Scandinavians gradually lost their national character. Thus it fared, as it is well known, with the Normans and Burgundians in France, the Goths, in Spain and the Lombards in Italy. The Slavonian language continued predominant, and it was scarcely altered by that of the foreigners. Towards the conclusion of the tenth century, Wladimir, one of Rurik's successors, acquired a double right to the title of Great, conferred on him by his subjects, for extending the boundaries of his empire from the Dwina to the Lake of Ladoga, and to the upper part of

the Dnieper, and introducing into his dominions the christian religion, which improved the manners of the Russians, previously not less barbarous than those of savages. Wladimir divided his possessions among his sons; the result was a series of wars and internal commotions for two centuries, during which Novogorod, having become powerful by commerce and nearly shaken off the authority of the dynasty of Rurik, united Ingermania and Carelia to its territory. The grand-dukes of Russia resided at Kiew, whither Oleg had transferred the seat of his government.

At the beginning of the thirteenth century, Russia seemed to have ceased to be a distinct state. Invaded by the

Mongols, under the command of Tchutchi Khan, son of Jenghis Khan, it was totally subdued, with the exception of the territory of Novogorod, by Tchutchi's son, Batu Khan. From that time the grand-dukes were vassals of the Khans of Kaptchak, or the Golden Horde, and had in their palace a Mongol governor, appointed to levy tribute and command the troops.

This humiliation announced the downfal of Russia. Its enemies having now nothing to fear from her, took advantage of her abasement, and wrested from her considerable provinces. The Lithuanians seized Volhynia and Kiew, and the Poles possessed themselves of all Red Russia. Nothing was left but

the grand-duchy of Wladimir, of which Moskwa or Moscow, became the capital.

To the conquests of Tamerlane Russia owed her salvation. That renowned prince overthrew the empire of the Khans of Kaptchak, and fresh principalities were formed at Casan, Astracan, in the Crimea, and on the Irtisch.—Russia, being no longer oppressed by the weight of a single power, began to breathe and to raise her head from amidst the ruins. Fortune favoured her, by giving her a prince adapted to circumstances. Iwan Wasiljewitsch, perceiving the weakness of the chiefs who had divided among them the Kaptchak state, subdued one after another, reduced under his dominion the free cities of

Novogorod and Pleskow, conquered part of Lithuania, Casan, Siberia and Finland, and caused the unity of the empire to be declared by the diet of his States. Ever since that period Russia has ranked among the monarchies of Europe and made rapid progress in that civilization, in which it was still behind-hand. Iwan Wasiljewitsch II. at the same time that he directed his attention to the aggrandizement of his empire, laid the foundation of the commerce of Russia by his treaties with the English, who had recently discovered the route to Archangel; established the first printing-press at Moscow; fortified the cities, and was the first who assumed the title of Czar. During his reign the limits of Russia

were carried beyond the mountains of Caucasus, and very far into Siberia, or rather the limits on that side were entirely done away. An immense country was here laid open to the Russians and it took them upwards of a century to find its bounds.

After the death of Feodor Iwanowitsch, son of Iwan Wasiljewitsch, and the last of Rurik's descendants, Russia was again in danger of being parcelled out and subdued. The Swedes and the Poles, invited into the empire by some factious persons, were already partitioning its provinces between them; but the diet hastened to raise a new dynasty to the throne, and their choice fell on Romanow, the metropolitan. Time has proved

that this was a happy selection for Russia.

Of the three princes of this new dynasty who succeeded each other, the last fixed the lot of Russia. The reader need scarcely be told that this was Peter I. whom the Russian monarchy acknowledges as its actual founder.—The circumstances of his life are so well known that it would be superfluous to enumerate the principal of them. Suffice it then to state, that he was the first emperor of Russia, that he created the Russian army and navy, founded the capital of his empire, constructed ports and fortresses, and added Livonia, Esthonia and Ingermania to his dominions. Barely a century has elapsed since his death,

and posterity already honours his memory as that of a hero of antiquity.

Under his successors Russia had but a few steps to take in òrder to place herself on a level with the first States of Europe. Catherine II. almost finished the work begun and carried so far by Peter the Great. Possessing more taste and information than her ancestor, she was more successful in diffusing knowledge among her subjects, rousing industry and peopling deserts. The empire was likewise indebted to her for an increase of territory by the partition of Poland and the subjugation of the Crimea; but it had to reproach her with some ruinous wars.

Paul, her successor, framed the act of

the constitution of the empire, joined the rivers of his dominions together by canals and added to Russia the country of Georgia.

The emperor Alexander, since his accession to the throne, has studied to correct the abuses which had crept into the government during the preceding reign. He has improved the administrative system, the organization of the army, and the institutions for education. The numerous colonies, settled during his reign on the west coast of North America, seem to make that quarter of the globe a continuation of Siberia and to give unlimited extent to his dominions.

During his reign Russia has had to

sustain a most arduous conflict with the gigantic power of France which has so often grasped at universal empire. The prodigious efforts of the Russian nation, its immense sacrifices, and the conflagration of its ancient capital, combined with the destructive effects of a winter much more severe than usual in that climate, annihilated the great army which Napoleon had led into the heart of the empire.

Under Alexander Russia has received fresh accessions. Biàlystock, Finland, Bessarabia and part of Moldavia have been added to its territory: but what gives this empire so powerful a predominance in Europe is the crown of Poland,

which the reigning emperor has placed on his head.

Justice, religion and a love of peace are the virtues which eminently distinguish this powerful sovereign, who has set the nobility of his empire a grand example by abolishing servitude in the domains of the crown.

Such is a brief sketch of the principal events that have raised the Russian empire to the pinnacle of greatness. What a variety of nations, religions, languages, and manners in that immense empire! On comparing its various inhabitants, what a diversity in their physiognomy, way of life, dress, language and opinions! What a difference for example between

the Livonian and the Calmuck, the Russian and the Samoyede, the Fin and the Caucasian, the Aleutian and the Cossack! What different degrees of civilization, from the Samoyede who merely vegetates, as it were, in his smoky cabin, to the wealthy inhabitant of Petersburg or Moscow, who expresses himself in the language of Voltaire almost as elegantly as a Parisian. And yet these nations, these tribes, these hordes, some of them thousands of miles distant from others, and still more remote in manners, obey one and the same authority, acknowledge one and the same sovereign. But this magnitude, which excites the admiration of history, only serves to bewilder geogra-

phy, and causes us to despair of being ever completely acquainted with so vast an empire. The love of science, sometimes combined with interest, has indeed accomplished wonders; but when we consider all that has been done to throw light on the topography of Russia, in spite of the dangers and difficulties attendant on travelling in that country, we have fresh cause for astonishment.

The geography of Russia dates only from the time of Peter the Great. Before him no one ever thought of investigating the resources, wealth, and manners of the country. The foundation of the Academy of Sciences by that great monarch led to the first geographical expeditions. A Behring, a Spangen-

berg, a Tchirikow, a Messerschmidt, a Stollenberg, a Laxmann then penetrated into the deserts of Northern Asia, and ventured to explore the shores of the Frozen Ocean in quest of useful knowledge. The Academy, with a view to the farther illustration of the geography of Russia, addressed in 1760 a number of questions to all the governors of provinces. Their answers, it was conceived, would furnish a satisfactory description of the whole empire; but the result fell far short of the general expectation: the public received no more than a few numbers, containing observations many of which were extremely trivial.

About this period a private indivi-

dual, Mr. Rytschkow, published a topographical account of the government of Orenburg, a work which was considered far superior to all the communications of the governor. It was reserved for Catherine II. to enlarge the domain of science, as she had augmented the territory of her empire. By her command expeditions were fitted out at a great expense, and the conduct of them committed to most enlightened and persevering men. Thus Gmelin made a tour round the Caspian Sea; Güldenstädt penetrated into the Caucasus; Pallas, Falk, and Georgi explored the banks of the Wolga, the Terek, the Ural, the Yenessei, the Irtisch, &c.; and Billings visited Kamt-

schatka, the Aleutian islands, and the coast of America.

On the return of the travellers belonging to the first expeditions, the Academy of Sciences conceived the idea of publishing a general topography of the empire. The most distinguished of its members undertook different parts of this great work, a well-written prospectus of which described their plan. Unfortunately, nothing but this prospectus ever appeared, and the undertaking was relinquished.

The emperor Alexander has shewn, ever since his accession to the throne, that he is by no means indifferent to the sciences. He sent out General

Sprengporten, accompanied by an able draughtsman, into the remotest provinces of his empire; but the public has not yet reaped any benefit from his journey. It was his majesty, too, who first conceived the idea of a voyage of discovery round the world, so ably executed by Captain Krusenstern. A numerous embassy was dispatched with a similar view to China. To render it the more beneficial to the arts and sciences, he sent with his ambassador, Count Golovkin, several eminent scientific men and artists. Though this embassy did not reach the place of its destination, it traversed an immense extent of country: the expedition led

to numerous observations and discoveries, but they have not yet been made public.

A few years since, Count Rechberg, a Bavarian nobleman, who had resided some years in Russia, made a tour in that country for the purpose of collecting materials for a picturesque work, which he published in two folio volumes with numerous coloured plates. This work, if not complete, nevertheless surpasses, in accuracy and in the execution, every thing of the kind that has hitherto appeared.

According to the classification adopted by the Academy of Sciences of Petersburg, in the above-mentioned prospectus, and improved by Georgi,

the number of nations subject to the Russian sceptre amounts to ninety-nine; and if we add the inhabitants of the west coast of America, they will make exactly one hundred. This classification is as follows:—

NATIONS OF RUSSIA.

I. SLAVONIAN NATIONS.

1. Great Russians;
2. Great Russian Cossacks;
3. Malo-Russians, or Little Russians;
4. Malo-Russian Cossacks;
5. Tchernomorzes, or Russians of the Black Sea;
6. Poles;
7. Lettes, or Lithuanians;
8. Serbes;
9. Wallachians;
10. Albanians;

11. Arnauts;
12. Raitzians;
13. Bulgarians.

II. FINNISH NATIONS.

14. Fins;
15. Ischorzes;
16. Esthonians;
17. Livonians;
18. Tchudes;
19. Besarmians;
20. Surjanes;
21. Permiaks;
22. Tcheremisses;
23. Tchuwasches;
24. Mordwines;
25. Wotyaks;
26. Wogules;
27. Taepteries (a mixture of Finland and Tartar fugitives);
28. Laplanders;
29. Ostiaks of the Obi.

III. TARTAR NATIONS.

30—34. Tartars or Nogays of Cusan, Astracan, the Caucasus, Cuban, and the Crimea.
35. Siberian Tartars, (who are subdivided into Tartars of Tobolsk, Tara, Tomsk, the Obi, and Turalinzes);
36. Bucharians;
37. Tartars of Tchulym;
38. Teleutes;
39. Abinzes;
40. Tartar Colonists;
41—43. Roving Tartars, of Astracan, the Terek, Nogay Hordes;
44. Truchmenses;
45. Tartars of Werchotomsk;
46. Sajanes;
47. Kistomes;
48. Beltimerians;
49. Kotowzes;
50. Karakasses;
51. Tartars of Kundmow;

52. Baschkirs;
53. Metscheraiks;
54. Katschinzes;
55. Barabinzes;
56. Yakutes;
57—63. Caucasian Nations, viz. Tscherkasses, Ossetes, Basians, Lesgians, Kumukes, Tchetshenzes, Grusians or Georgians;
64—66. Mongol Nations, viz. Mongols, Buraits, Calmucks.
67—69. Mantchou Nations, viz. Mantchous, Tunguses, Camoots.

IV. NATIONS OF DOUBTFUL ORIGIN.

70—76. Samoyede Nations, viz. Samoyedes, Guarizis, Tawzis, Soyetes, Mojornes, Toobinzes, Yooraiks, and Yukagires;
77. Ostiaks of Pumpokol;
78. Awzanes;
79. Kotowzes and Arinzes;
80. Kamtschadales;

81. Koraiks;
82. Tchuktchis;
83. Tchelages;
84. Aleutians;
85. Kuriles.

V. NATIONS WHO HAVE SETTLED IN RUSSIA.

86—99. Germans, Swedes, Danes, English, French, Spaniards, Swiss, Italians, Dutch, Greeks, Armenians, Indians, Jews, Gypsies.

The fifth division ought, in our opinion, to have been excluded, especially since, with the exception of the first two, the nations composing it do not form distinct villages or communities.

PART I.

SLAVONIAN NATIONS.

CHAP. I.

GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE RUSSIANS —PRINCIPAL RACES OF THE INHABITANTS OF RUSSIA.

It is calculated that the Russian empire in Europe and Asia is inhabited by not fewer than seventy-five races, more or less distinct; the mass of whom may be comprehended, as we have seen, under the denominations of Slavonians, Fins, and Tartars. The total population, on a surface of 341,580 geographical square miles, is upwards

of 56 millions of souls, about 45 millions of whom are of Slavonian descent.

The Slavonians inhabit Russia in Europe, properly so called, and the provinces known by the name of Russian Poland. They are in general handsome men, mostly above the middle stature, and of strong constitutions. Their complexion is rather brown than white.

The Russian is not less lively in mind than body; he is active, agile, and always cheerful; naturally generous, he is nevertheless liable to gusts of passion, and capable of deliberate acts of atrocious barbarity. In other respects he is industrious and crafty in trade; ever officious, he liberally prac-

tises hospitality, is fond of society, and very communicative. The people of the very lowest class are not destitute of natural eloquence.

Endowed with an extraordinary aptitude for learning, the Russians are at the same time so fickle, that they are discouraged before they have proceeded half-way. Sometimes, too, they fancy themselves to be proficients in an art, with the principles of which they have but a superficial acquaintance. They are very temperate in regard to solid food, but the common people are excessively addicted to intoxication. The soldiers of this country stand like walls, and never forsake their officers so long as the latter manifest any courage.

The husbandmen implicitly follow the routine handed down to them by their forefathers, without thinking of introducing either improvements or new processes.

The merchants and tradesmen are very eager after gain. While foreigners, in order to find a more speedy market, are necessitated to sell their goods at a long credit, they are obliged to pay in specie for all the productions of the Russian soil; and they sometimes buy up beforehand the ensuing crop. Thus it is not uncommon for a man who can neither read nor write, and who has come from his village in a coarse smock-frock and bark shoes, to return thither before the year's end laden with money.

The inhabitants of Lithuania, Polish Russia, and the Ukraine in particular, have something of the general character of the Russians: but the difference between them and the Fins is extremely striking.

The Fins, or natives of Russian and Swedish Finland, the Ischores, and the Tchudes of Ingermania, the Esthonians, Livonians and Courlanders, are distinguished both morally and physically by very strongly-marked characteristics.

The Russian history exhibits numberless examples of individuals of the Slavonian race who have quitted the plough to become counts and princes. Such metamorphoses were very common during the reigns of Peter the

Great and Elizabeth; but there is only one instance of a person of Finnish extraction rising above her origin. This, indeed, is a memorable instance—that of Catherine I. wife of Peter the Great, whose extraordinary qualities rendered her worthy of the throne.

The Fins are short in stature, very rarely exceeding the middling size. They are thick and squat; have prominent cheek-bones, small gray piercing eyes, hair and beard of a light colour and very thin: their voice is measured and as it were crying. Endowed with little penetration, they are neither ready nor sharp in business, and invincibly obstinate. They cannot be charged with any great vices, if we except

drunkenness, in which they are not surpassed by the Russians properly so called.

Owing to their indolence few wealthy persons are to be seen among them: they neglect their lands, their cattle, and still more the interior of their houses. Some few however are rich, industrious and economical. The women are better educated than the men and more active, and the young girls repair to the capital to earn their living in service. The servants of this nation are much liked at Petersburg, where they sometimes meet with very advantageous matches.

The peasants of Courland, Finland,

Esthonia live under the inspection of their German masters; they have a much greater love of order and more industry than the Fins, properly so called, who are not overlooked by any master. Hence the villages of the former, especially those situated on the high-roads are neither so poor nor so ill built as those of the Fins.

Such of the Tartar tribes as have been under the dominion of Russia are industrious and even wealthy. The Tartars are a handsome race, with Asiatic, and of course strongly marked features: their women are considered as very handsome. The nobles of this nation who have embraced the Greek

religion enjoy high consideration in the capital, and are on a par with the Russian nobility.

At Petersburg there are to be seen numbers of Tartars of the lowest class, also *mirzas* or nobles, and *mollahs* or Mahometan priests. They have distinct temples for the performance of their religious rites.

The Tartars who are obliged by poverty to go to service choose rather to hire themselves to foreigners than to natives, because they cannot agree with Russian domestics. As their religion forbids the use of strong liquors, and they are attentive and faithful, they are preferred to native servants.

CHAP. II.

DIVISION OF THE RUSSIAN NATION INTO NOBLES AND SERFS, OR SLAVES—DRUNKENNESS OF THE LOWER CLASSES—WINTER DRESS OF THE RICH—RUSSIAN LADIES—MANNERS OF THE NOBLES—STATE OF THE PEASANTRY—HOUSES AND VILLAGES—DRESS OF THE LOWER CLASSES—MANNERS AND CHARACTER OF THE SERFS.

The Russians are not only distinguished by the different races from which they derive their origin, but are divided, like all other civilized societies, into several classes: here, however, the boundary line between the

castes is much more clearly marked than throughout the rest of Europe. The effects of this distinction are of the highest importance.

Under the moderate governments of Europe, nobility, the reward of ancient services, confers certain distinctions on those who are fortunate enough to be born to it. But the commoner, be his circumstances what they may, enjoys at least the inalienable property of his own person; he may embrace any profession that best suits his talents or his inclination; and there is scarcely any career that is not open to his ambition. In Russia, on the contrary, the peasant does not belong

to himself. Should the land which he tills with the sweat of his brow be sold, he is transferred to the new proprietor, together with the cattle and the implements of agriculture, and himself and his family are purchased as part of the stock employed in cultivating the domain.

Russia, therefore, contains but two principal classes of inhabitants—the nobles and the *serfs* or slaves. A third may be admitted, that of the merchants. It is calculated that the population of Petersburg, including the military and foreigners, amounts to above 300,000 souls. The number of foreigners may be about 30,000; that of the military

and of persons belonging to the court 70,000; thus, 200,000 are the residue of the populace or slaves.

The slaves belong to the nobles, and are remarkable for quickness of apprehension. They are charged with excessive shrewdness in making bargains, which few of them will keep if to their disadvantage, unless compelled by written articles of agreement.

The whole nation was formerly addicted to drunkenness, but, owing to the exertions of Peter the Great, this disgraceful vice has been rooted out from among the higher orders. However fond the ancient nobility may have been of the mantling goblet, their mo-

dern descendants are most abstemious in regard to wine and other strong liquors. Drunkenness is no where to be seen but among the lower classes. It is during the intense cold of winter, when the blood, freezing in the veins, seems to demand some generous cordial to stimulate circulation, that the people give full scope to their passion for intoxicating liquors. In that season, numbers of these wretches are seen lying in the streets, where they soon pass from the sleep of drunkenness to that of death. When a poor creature has spent his last *copeck* at the public-house, the inhuman keeper thrusts him out of doors as an object no longer worthy of his attention. Away

he staggers, till he is brought up by the opposite wall. Heedless of any injury he may have sustained by the shock, he reels forward, howling discordant notes from some national song: a religious fit will frequently interrupt his harmony, when crossing himself several times and as often muttering his *Gospodi pomilui!* "Lord, have mercy upon us!"—he staggers and stumbles along, till his foot slips and that earth receives him, whence it is a thousand chances that he will never rise more.

During the severe winter of 1789, the cold was so intense in Russia, that 14,000 persons were frozen to death on the road between Petersburg and Mos-

cow. It may be conceived how dangerous it is for men to fall asleep in the open air in a frost of 25 degrees below zero, when it is known that the birds often drop down dead and stiff from the trees. Water thrown at this season from any height is congealed before it reaches the ground.

Notwithstanding the inclemency of the climate, it is extremely easy to guard against its effects. Sir Robert Porter thus describes the dress of the rich in winter:—On the head is worn a turban-formed cap of sable: a large cloak called a *shoub*, with sleeves lined throughout with bear, Siberian fox, racoon or other skins, covers the body, reaching to the ancles: it wraps well

round the wearer, being well caped and cuffed with fur. A sort of shoes called *kangees*, of elk or calf-skin, rough both within and without, defend the feet. Such as do not use these wear large leather or velvet boots, flanneled or furred, which are drawn over the ordinary appendages to the legs. Thus habited it is scarcely possible to recognize your friends, or even to trace a single lineament of a human creature. How often, adds the traveller, when I have seen one of these rugged forms ready for the sledge and conversing with some lovely female, have I thought of the pretty fairy tale of *Beauty and the Beast!*

In severe frost the parts of the body

more than usually exposed to the air are liable to be frozen. This accident frequently happens to the nose and ears; and if proper precautions be not taken to restore the circulation and warmth by degrees, the sufferer may possibly lose the frozen part. It is scarcely possible to convey an idea of the sensation produced by a bleak wind blowing in the face in an atmosphere of 17 degrees of cold. Porter compares it to that which would be excited by the rapid scraping of the face, previously stripped of skin, with the fragment of a rusty iron hoop or a piece of pumice-stone.

The winter habiliments of the ladies are much more graceful than those of

the men, being warm without absolutely disguising the shape.

The dress of the females of the capital differs little from that worn in England; their garments are only rather more ample and wadded throughout—a precaution indispensably necessary in this climate, where a cold caught almost immediately brings on the most dangerous fevers, and where life is too often the forfeit of an hour's indiscretion.

In Russia there is scarcely any transition from summer to winter: there is no spring or autumn. Immediately after the March equinox, the days rapidly increase and are longer than in the temperate regions of Europe. The sun is not so high above the horizon, but his

daily visits are longer and his rays communicate an excessive heat to the atmosphere. In July there is scarcely any night, the twilight lasting from sun-set till sun-rise; but immediately after the autumnal equinox the days decrease very fast; in October and November the sky is obscured by fogs and the first frosts soon come on.

In the interior of Russia, the races are not much mixed; but in the two chief cities and especially at Petersburg, the influx of persons not only from all parts of the empire, but from every country of Europe, occasions great varieties in the blood. It has been observed that, in almost every country, this mixture is unfavourable to female beauty.

The Russian ladies have in general a florid complexion, but their features are far from regular. The ladies of Petersburg are not, according to Porter, very formidable rivals of those of other great European capitals. There are certainly in that city some very fine women, but the majority have small claims to the title of beautiful. Their features are rather of the Calmuck cast; and from their sedentary habits, nature soon allows the rose of their charms to blow into too full luxuriance; like exotics in a hot-house, the artificial heat brings them to untimely maturity, and they fade away at the very moment when we expect to find them at their highest bloom. But it is only their

exterior which thus changes. At the age of thirty or thirty-five years, the face may be withered and the figure overgrown; but the mind and heart still retain the fire of youth. Stoved rooms, the exclusion of fresh air, no exercise and hot suppers, all tend to demolish the shape, destroy the complexion and impair the health.

The wives of the native tradesmen of Moscow, one of whom is represented in the opposite plate, are decked out when they go abroad in all the riches their husbands can afford. Their petticoat is of brocade silk gaudily flowered and slung on their shoulders by a kind of braces thick with embroidery. The body is covered with a jacket either of

TRADESMAN'S WIFE in her HOLIDAY DRESS.

Pub by R. Ackermann London 1822

velvet or stuff, bound with gold lace and colours. A shift sleeve reaches to the elbow. The neck and arms are bare, hung with beads and necklaces, and they wear ear and finger-rings innumerable. Some wear diadems of gold set with coloured stones and pearls; others a large square handkerchief richly shot with silver and various hues, and thrown down their backs, one corner being ingeniously wound round their heads making a simple and pretty *coëffure*.

On an elegant woman this habit might be becoming, but every point about these dames is the opposite of beauty, and it only serves with them to render deformity more hideous. Their

eyes are tolerable but totally divested of expression. Their faces are besmeared with white and red paint, and their teeth most perversely stained black: not a muscle of their face ever moves; and in general, their usual attitude being stationary, scarcely ever walking, with their hands joined together before them, they stand like a string of wax figures, gazing on the passing groups of the higher orders.

The features of these females betray the mixture of Tartar and Calmuck blood with the Russian. The visage is short, the bones of the cheeks high, the forehead projecting and the eye small. Their stature is commonly of the middle size, and from their habits of life, both

men and women are inclined to be more than abundantly corpulent. When a tinge of the Georgian, Polish and Circassian mingles with the Russian blood, the result is the most exquisite beauty; but this is generally confined to the higher rank.

One of the most remarkable intellectual qualities of the Russian ladies is the facility with which they learn foreign languages. There is no modern language but they acquire without difficulty. They speak and write French like natives of Paris, though at the same time they can scarcely spell a Russian word. It is not surprizing that they should neglect their mother tongue, since it is scarcely ever spoken in polite

company, but merely employed in affairs of state, pleadings, law proceedings and religious acts.

The nobility of Russia are honest, frank and hospitable. A something about them reminds you, says Porter, that Muscovy and England first shook hands in the days of our good queen Bess. There is a hardihood, and at the same time a courtliness of demeanor, which recal to recollection the prowess of Sir Francis Drake and the gallantry of Sir Walter Raleigh. What Elizabeth was to England, Catherine II. was to Russia.

The usual pastime of the nobles, when they are not engaged in military duties or employed in offices of state,

is driving about in the carriage or sledge during the morning. They dine at half-past two o'clock, and after that take a nap for a couple of hours, for they do not sit long at table, or play at cards. They are also fond of billiards; but their favourite amusement is boston, a sort of whist, invented by the Americans of the United States, and probably at the place after which it is named. The evening is passed at the theatre, or in assemblies at their own houses, when either cards are again resorted to, or a light dance exhilarates the scene; such of the company as prefer sitting, at the same time playing on the piano-forte or harp. Forfeits, the magic music, and

various other little pastimes, are brought forward till supper is announced.

This meal is one of the most important in Russia. It is generally more luxurious than dinner—soups, fish, roast and boiled meats, and savoury dishes filling the board. Good appetites are seldom wanting, and with overloaded stomachs the parties retire to rest. To this practice of eating heavy suppers some travellers are disposed to ascribe the ill health and indigestion of which so many of the inhabitants of the Russian capital complain. It is not improbable that the baths also, of which we shall treat elsewhere, contribute not a little to weaken their constitutions.

The stoves heat the apartments of the Russian houses to such a degree that their inhabitants would be unable to endure the cold abroad unless they were loaded with furs. Foreigners and the French in particular excite the astonishment of the people of Petersburg by their apparent disregard of the most intense cold. They are shocked here, says a French writer, to see a person walking abroad in December or January, in a frock and silk stockings; and I have more than once witnessed the sensation produced upon the public by a dress so inconsistent with the season.

The pelisses most highly esteemed by the Russians, are lined with the skins of unborn lambs. To obtain this

costly material, the lambs are cut from the sides of the mothers at the moment when they are ready to drop them.—The wool of these little victims is beautifully soft, and in small silky curls of a silvery gray. The skins are brought from Persia, Bucharia and the Calmuck country. It was formerly believed that these furs were a vegetable production and furnished by the Scythian lamb, concerning which so many fables have been related. Their origin is now ascertained; still the Tartars who sell the skins of the real lambs persist in declaring that they are a production of the earth, but so rare that they demand exorbitant prices for them.

Other furs from Siberia and the adja-

cent countries are also in high esteem. Such are the skins of the black foxes and sables, which are extremely expensive. The Russian nobility pique themselves on displaying in their furs their wealth and magnificence. The celebrated Potemkin had a muff which cost upwards of a thousand guineas, and a man may expend at Petersburg a very handsome fortune on the wardrobe of his wife and daughters before they are properly befurred for the winter.

The peasantry, that useful and laborious class, without which the others could not subsist are in Russia slaves. Though the sovereigns deem it good policy to seize every opportunity of manumitting them, still they could not

all at once restore liberty to so many serfs attached to the soil without ruining the owners and consequently exciting dangerous discontents.

The peasants belonging to the nobility are absolute slaves. Not only may the owner dispose of them or remove them to another village, but he has a right to require their personal service. Formerly these slaves were similarly circumstanced with those of the ancients, or the blacks in the West Indies: the owner had a right to dispose of his serfs like any sort of merchandize, and to buy or sell a husband or wife separately; but imperial ukases have of late years deprived him of this power.

The proprietor arbitrarily fixes the

services, as well as the *abrock*, or payments in money or in kind, which he requires of his vassals. He determines the extent of land which the peasants shall cultivate for his benefit, and divides the rest among them at pleasure.

The *abrock* of the serfs amounts in general to eight or ten rubles. If no rent is imposed, every male, on attaining the age of fifteen years, is obliged to work three days a week for his master, and the women and children in proportion to their strength.

Many nobles grant permission to their serfs of both sexes to gain a livelihood in the capital as servants, shop-keepers, day-labourers, artisans, or boat-men; and the sum which they

are to reserve for them is governed by what they earn. This tax is much higher than that imposed on labourers in husbandry.

Judicious proprietors, aware that they are themselves interested in the welfare of their peasants, treat them kindly, encourage their agricultural efforts, or allow them to employ their capital in other ways. There are instances of boors who, enjoying such indulgences, have acquired considerable wealth. Soltau, a German writer, mentions a boor belonging to Count Scheremetof, who, by the fruits of his industry, not only bought his liberty, but established a large manufactory, and purchased a handsome domain.

When the owners of estates are less influenced by the love of justice, and less enlightened to their true interests, their vassals have much to suffer. They scarcely retain the human shape; and the wretched appearance of their villages and habitations attests their degraded condition. Such examples are fortunately very rare.

The nobles and wealthy landed proprietors commit the management of their estates to stewards, whom they in general select from among their vassals. These men are sometimes guilty of the greatest cruelty in the exercise of their delegated authority.

In the sale of landed possessions, the price is not merely determined by

the number of cabins, but by that of the peasants, according to their respective ages and cases. The value differs with the situation and the qualities of the soil. On poor lands the value of each person is about forty rubles: but there are others where the boors would fetch from one to two hundred rubles per head. Regard is also had to its forests, fish-ponds, navigable rivers, the vicinity of great towns, the quality of the land, and the extent and solidity of the buildings.

The houses seen upon the roads are of wood; the walls being constructed of trunks of trees stripped of their limbs and bark, and laid horizontally one on the other with great neatness. Not a

nail is used in these edifices, so that they may be taken down at pleasure, and re-erected in a few hours in any other situation. I am told, says Porter, that at Moscow there is a house-market, where you may purchase small villages ready made: villas also, and houses of every size and pattern fill up this extraordinary magazine; so that if a person happens to be burnt out in the morning, he may before night have a room at least erected at a cheap rate to cover him.

Most of the villages consist of one street only, of tolerable width, presenting to the eye a row of gable ends, like some of the ancient towns of Britain. In the wall are windows of four

panes of glass, with curious carved ornaments at top; and on their shutters, which open outwards, a variety of flowers, stars, and strange devices are painted in the rudest taste, and often blended with gilding. The national admiration of painting and sculpture is everywhere manifested on the exterior of the cottages. Every house has a gallery or balustrade below, besides the roof projecting from the face of the building, to defend its inmates from the sun in summer, and the inclemencies of the weather in winter. A sort of double gate separates each from its neighbour, and leads into a large courtyard filled with sledges, old kibitkas, and other carriages of the country; be-

sides an accumulation of dirt, rotten straw, jaded horses, pigs, and other nuisances, completing a museum of nastiness scarcely to be found in any other civilized spot on the globe. The post-house is distinguished by a long pole, on which is suspended a straw wreath and four or five tassels; an emblem, the meaning of which Sir Robert Porter was unable to learn even of the post-masters themselves.

Upon the whole, the Russian villages exhibit to the view of the traveller none of those cultivated spots, which give such charms to the hamlets of Switzerland. No tree or creeping tendril grows near the door and windows of these habitations. Nothing is to be

seen there resembling the white or russet cottages of England, overgrown with the blushing rose or fragrant honeysuckle, their pretty gardens, luxuriant orchards, and domesticated animals.

Nothing is so wretched as the interior of the houses of the Russian peasants. One room is the habitation of all the inmates. Here they eat, sleep, and perform all the functions of life. One quarter of it is occupied by a large stove, flat at the top, on which many of them sleep at night, and where they loll, during the day, for hours, three or four together in a huddle, not more decent than disgusting. Beneath is an excavation like an oven, used for the

double duty of cooking their victuals and heating the dwelling to the desired temperature.

On entering one of the post-houses, Sir Robert Porter found the top of the oven occupied by the post-master's wife, his mother, his wife's mother, and a child, almost all in a state of nature. The youngest was extremely pretty, and seemed, though a mother, not more than fifteen. This is not surprizing, as the warmth of these stoves acts upon the human constitution as hot-houses do upon exotics. A bed with dirty curtains filled one corner of the room: a few benches and a table completed the furniture. The walls were not so bare, being covered

with uncouth prints and innumerable daubings. In one spot was placed a picture or effigy of our Saviour and the Virgin, decorated with silver plates stamped most curiously. From the ceiling hung a lamp, which, during certain holidays, is kept continually burning. In this cyclopean den, says the traveller, the heat and smoke became so pestiferous, that we were compelled to retire; and as we opened the door, the steam issued with us like smoke from the crater of a volcano.

The cradles of the children are suspended from the ceiling by four cords, and the mattress on which the infant lies is enclosed in a frame not unlike that used for embroidering. In this

species of hammock the children are swung for the purpose of being lulled to sleep—a method far preferable to the violent rocking of our cradles, by which nurses are liable to injure the organs or impair the digestion of the poor infants.

The dwellings of wealthy peasants are more commodious than the cabins just described. At the entrance, a covered flight of stairs leads to the ante-room. The *isba*, or lodging-room of the family, is constructed like that of the meanest huts, but more spacious, and has glass windows of four or six panes. On the other side of the ante-room is the strangers' room, heated by a stove of brick or Dutch tiles, and having the

walls papered. Sometimes this apartment, especially at the post-houses, contains good beds for travellers. The cellar, *pogreb*, is underneath the dwelling-room; and over the latter is frequently a garret, *terema*, with a small balcony towards the street. This is the usual abode of the daughter of the house, and hence the *terema* frequently occurs in the love-songs of the villagers. On the other side of the court is the cellar, *lednik*, where provisions are kept in summer. Beyond that is the bath, *ban*, and beyond the latter the kiln for drying corn, *owin*.

Every Russian peasant who is in easy circumstances is attentive to cleanliness both in his house and person; and

himself and family usually bathe at least once a week, commonly on Saturday.

The favourite dish of the Russians in winter is *tchtchti,* a kind of soup made of cabbage cut very small, beef, pork, and rye-bread. The poor live almost all the year round on bread steeped in *quass,* cucumbers, leeks, and onions.

The quass just mentioned is a fermented liquor made of rye-flour and sprouted wheat. Ten pounds of flour and five of grain are steeped in hot water. This mixture is put into the oven in a covered vessel, and there left twenty-four hours. It is then taken out and emptied into a tub. Five pints of water and two handfuls of mint are

added, and the whole is left to ferment till it has contracted a slightly acid and very agreeable taste. This takes place in two or three days; and during this interval the liquor is stirred from time to time with a stick. It is then left a day to settle, poured off and bottled. This beverage is cooling and pleasant, particularly in summer. The country-people have superior kinds of drink for extraordinary occasions, such as mead, *braga,* or beer brewed from millet, and *sbitir,* which is made of honey, water and pepper.

In the more northern provinces of the empire, the peasants and people of the lowest class wrap themselves in furs during the winter. Their summer

dress consists of a long caftan of blue or brown cloth, falling to the knees. It crosses diagonally on the breast, where it fastens with cylindrical buttons of brass or white metal. Round the waist is a sash of crimson worsted-net, like that worn by British officers. In this they place their gloves, or, if they be labourers, their hatchets. The head is protected from the inclemency of the weather by caps of velvet or fur, some round, others square, or varied according to the choice of the wearer. Their necks are completely bare of any other shelter than their hair, which hangs down in straight locks all around it. Their shirts and trowsers are of coarse linen, striped either red or blue. Thick

swathes of rags are rolled about their legs to keep out the cold, and over these they pull a pair of large and ill-constructed boots. Those whose circumstances will not allow the luxury of these leather defences, increase the swathings to such a bulk, by wrappings and cross-bandages, that their lower extremities look more like flour-sacks than human legs. When thus bulwarked, they stuff them into a pair of enormous shoes, made very ingeniously from the bark of the linden-tree, at the expense of three half-pence. The town of Serpuchof, to the south of Moscow, carries on a great trade in these shoes, which are called *labkus*. The custom of wearing them is very destructive to

the woods, as each man requires twenty or thirty pair in the course of a year: hence numbers of trees are to be seen in many places which have perished because they have been stripped of their bark.

The garb of the peasantry undergoes no other alteration in winter than perhaps exchanging the cloth caftan for a sheep-skin of the same form. This style of dress appertains to the commonalty alone; and it closely resembles that worn by the English in the reign of Richard II. Any one who has considered the old tombs in our cathedrals, or has studied the costume represented in many illuminated manuscripts, still extant, will immediately perceive that

the peasantry of Russia in the nineteenth century are contemporaries in fashion with those of England in the fourteenth.

The Russian women are in general short, clumsy, round-faced, with small features and sallow complexions. The latter defect, indeed, they strive to remedy by a profusion of paint of various hues, which they daub on with as little taste as art. The females of the lowest classes wear a short gown of blue woollen cloth, bound with various colours. The waist is usually fastened by a close row of cylindrical buttons. Their heads are in general bound with a flowered handkerchief of the gayest pattern terminating beneath the chin.

EGG-SELLER.

Pub.d by R. Ackermann, London.

On holidays, a little diadem of gold and coloured stones is added In the most excessive cold, this slight covering is the only one that is worn on the head; but for the shelter of the body recourse is had to the sheep-skin, in the shape of an English rustic's bed-gown. Warm stockings and boots are the defence for the legs. The Russian women have sometimes a very picturesque costume, as may be perceived on reference to the opposite plate representing an egg-woman.

The washerwoman, too, in general displays some taste in her dress. She carries her linen suspended from the ends of a sort of wooden yoke of elegant workmanship placed on one shoulder.

In her left hand she holds a wooden beetle; it is not flat like that used by the washerwomen of some other countries, but grooved across in such a manner as to press the linen with greater force. This method is probably less injurious to linen than if the edge of the beetle were employed. Her dress, as exhibited in the annexed engraving, is a faithful representation of the general costume of maid-servants in Finland.

The wives of mechanics and tradesmen dress with more taste and costliness. Their gowns are of rich brocade, and their heads fantastically adorned with pearls. Their cloaks are shaped like the doublet of Sir John Falstaff, and of the same materials, being velvet,

WASHERWOMAN.

Pub.d by R. Ackermann London 1822

either crimson, scarlet or purple, lined and caped with sable fur of the most expensive sort. They also wear boots made of leather or velvet, according to their ability. This covering for the leg is considered so necessary in Russia, that the smallest infants, just able to crawl, are encumbered with boots sooner than shirts.

A singular custom prevails among the villagers. As soon as a female is married, she binds up the whole of her hair under her head-dress. In the days of her maidenhood she wears it plaited like the Chinese, and tied with a bunch of ribands at the end.

In the German provinces of Esthonia and Livonia, there are, besides the ori-

ginal natives of the country descendants of German or Swedish farmers who retain the costume of the nation to which their ancestors belonged. Such is the Livonian peasant represented in the annexed engraving, whose dress nearly resembles that of the inhabitants of the Swedish province of Dalecarlia.

The summer dress of the rustics of the central provinces is very light. The men go with naked feet, seldom any covering on their head, and literally wear nothing more than a shirt and trowsers of striped linen. The shirt is closed at the neck with a round buckle precisely like the clasp used by the ancients. Their costume is nearly the same throughout all the provinces ex-

PEASANT of LIVONIA.

Pub. by R. Ackermann, London [illegible]

cepting the Ukraine, the natives of which dress in the Polish fashion, and in the ancient German provinces, where the German or Swedish style is still followed. On holidays the peasants put on over the shirt a kind of loose coat or caftan of gray stuff, which reaches to the knees. A belt of different colours, called *kuschak*, encircles the waist.

In winter they wear a sheep-skin which sometimes falls no lower than the knee, while at others it descends to the heels. The rich peasants have more costly furs.

The women during the warm season, wear a blue and yellow dress of dyed linen, closed down the front with but-

tons and fastened on the shoulder with clasps. It is called a *serrafan.* Their heads are usually bound with handkerchiefs of various colours, and when more gay, a bandeau of gold lace and beads encircles their forehead. The hair is brought to a knot on the top of the head and its back part is ornamented with a fanciful sort of net-work, tassels and fringes of bugles, glass beads and different-coloured silks or worsted, resembling the decoration worn by the American chiefs in the pláce of a Highlander's philibeg.

The unmarried female peasants of the heights of Valdai, situated between Petersburg and Moscow, have a costume which resembles one in Switzerland.—

WOMAN OF TARTARY.

Pub. by R. Ackermann London [illegible]

It consists of a shift with full sleeves, and a petticoat with coloured stockings. Over this they wear in winter a pelisse of lamb's wool, as white as the snow around them, lined with cloth and adorned with gold buttons and lace. The hair is braided, as in most parts of Russia, and hangs to a great length down their backs. On the head they wear a handkerchief of coloured silk. When married the hair is trussed up, and this constitutes the outward distinction of a virgin or a matron. The latter wears a red hat turned up with fur and trimmed with gold lace; and the white pelisse is changed for a richly coloured one as shewn in the plate opposite.

It would appear from the accounts of

travellers that the women of Tula are employed in many of those occupations which are generally considered as belonging to the more robust sex. Thus Dr. Clarke tells us that he here observed women engaged in repairing the pavement of the streets, which is kept in good order. The annexed engraving represents a female gardener of this place, with the appropriate implements of her profession. The dress of the young females of Tula, says the traveller just mentioned, when clean, displays their persons to advantage. A white shift covers the arms and the body in front and is fastened behind with tape. It is drawn tight over the breast and there held together by a small button.

FEMALE GARDENER of TULA.

Pub by R Ackermann London 1811

The town of Tula is celebrated for its iron mines which occupy an extent of more than ten miles, and its manufactures of the same metal. Clarke describes the view of the town from the elevated plain over which the road passes to Woronetz as one of the most pleasing in Russia. There too the ear is greeted by the cheerful noise of industry and manufactures, the ringing of bells, the lowing of herds, and the loud chorus of peasants singing their national airs, accompanying the voice either by the clapping of hands, or by the notes of their rude pipes which they construct of the same materials as the sandals on their feet.

The women of Yaroslav wear a cap

very much like that of the Russian grenadiers. It has a square plate of metal in front, whereas that on the caps of the soldiers terminates in a point.—See the engraving.

The men of the central provinces are particularly fond of children, and when they return from work, you will more frequently see them taking their infants in their arms and caressing them, than seeking the company of their wives.

While I am on this subject, says Sir Robert Porter, I cannot omit mentioning a strange custom which these people have among them, a custom very repugnant to nature and to British feelings, nay shocking to think of. Fathers marry their sons at an early age to

TRADESMAN'S WIFE of YAROSLAW.

Pub. by R. Ackermann, London [illegible]

blooming girls in the village, and then send the young men either to Moscow or Petersburg to seek employment, leaving their brides a few days after their marriage to the care of their parents. At the expiration of some years, when the son returns to his cottage, he finds himself the nominal father of several children, the offspring of his own parent, who has deemed it his duty thus to supply the place of a husband to the young wife. This is done all over Russia and is never considered as a hardship by the parties. Indeed so far from it the practice continues; and when the son becomes a resident in his native village, if he has a numerous stock thus raised to him,

he marries them off, sends them packing, and then enjoys himself, like a Turk in his harem, among their wives.

Whether this horrid, unnatural, and immoral custom, adds the traveller, arose from any policy in the nobles, who might issue an order to this effect, to compensate perhaps to themselves for some great mortality among their young serfs in the case of long and destructive wars, I cannot tell; but I think it very likely, since no propensity in nature could ever dictate so abominable a perversion. As it is the interest of the owner of slaves to increase the number, it is also his interest to encourage the emigration of the young men to the ci-

tics: for as he receives an annual pecuniary acknowledgment from all who leave his village to pursue their plans, in proportion as they amass money he may raise the rent they pay him for themselves, and so improve his revenue by their fortune. On these grounds probably the horrid practice just noticed is permitted to pass uncensured.

If the Russian peasantry and servants are all slaves, it must not be inferred that their masters are all tyrants. In most cases due attention is paid to their comforts, and cruelty or oppression is very seldom suffered to embitter their lives. You never hear them complain, and in fact they rarely have any cause

of complaint, for, totally ignorant of the advantages of liberty, they desire it not, and are quite content to be considered as much their master's property as his ox or his ass, provided they be fed and foddered as well.

That this is no exaggerated statement is proved by an experiment made by the late emperor Paul, before his accession to the throne. Desirous of improving the condition of the slaves on his domains, this prince directed his stewards to treat them as farmers and to demand of them nothing but a low rent. That this favour might not be thrown away he furnished them at his own expense with agricultural implements, and advanced them what money

they wanted. The first thing these wretched creatures did was to sell all they had, and in less than two years they had spent the produce in debauchery. At length, finding themselves unable to pay their rent, they earnestly solicited the favour of being placed again on their former footing.

It is true that instances are related of the cruelty with which some owners treat this unfortunate race: but on tracing back such anecdotes to their source, you find them to be either of very ancient date, or exaggerated. Time has so altered the minds of the Russians, that such barbarities very seldom if ever now occur.

The houses of the nobility are filled

with these vassals or servants, both male and female, who line the halls, passages and entrances of the rooms. In almost every anti-chamber some of these domestics are placed ready to obey the commands of their lord or his guests; and at the call of "Who waits?" two or three of them run in at the instant. In the house of Count Orloff alone, says Dr. Clarke, are not fewer than five hundred servants, many of them sumptuously clothed and many others in rags. Whatever be the number of these domestics, says the same traveller, they do not cost their master a shilling, their clothes, food and every article of subsistence being derived from the poor oppressed peasants.

The boors are all slaves. Each estate has its native boors by hundreds, who are attached to the glebe, and perform all the agricultural operations. They are extremely industrious and when under a good owner daily improve and become more valuable. Their attachment to their lords, when well treated, is generally as warm as their enmity in the contrary case. Some noble traits have presented themselves among the slaves: the following is related by Clarke.

When the father of Count Golovkin was reduced to the necessity of selling a portion of his peasants, in consequence of debts contracted in the service of the crown, deputies from his slaves

came to Moscow, beseeching an audience of their lord. One venerable man, the eldest of the number advertised for sale, begged to know why they were to be disposed of. "Because," said the count, "I am in want of money, and must absolutely pay the debts I have contracted."—"How much?" at once exclaimed all the deputies.—"About thirty thousand rubles," rejoined the count.—"God help us! do not sell us! we will bring you the money."

These same men are implacable in their resentment. When their owner exacts from them the produce of their earnings, after having perhaps received from them an exorbitant sum for allowing them to follow their respective trades,

they are then very frequently wrought up to such animosity as to form conspiracies against the life of their oppressor.

At the time of Porter's residence in Russia, a gentleman, having by some severities incurred the hatred of his slaves, who were employed in a distillery, they seized him one day and threw him into a large boiler of hot spirits. The murder was not discovered for some days; ten or fifteen of the perpetrators were knouted and banished for life to Siberia.

A German general, who had risen to the highest rank in the Russian army, by his marriage with a lovely woman, became possessed of several estates and

the slaves belonging to them. He was a man of an excellent heart, and felt deeply for the sufferings of others. On visiting one of these estates, he found a thousand impositions and acts of tyranny practised on the wretched boors by six or seven farmers, who rented great part of the property. He endeavoured to correct these abuses, and determined to dismiss his tenants. As the latter saw no other chance of keeping their ground than by ridding themselves of their new master, they planned his destruction. The instrument selected by them to wreak their atrocious revenge was a boor, who was saving as much as possible from the earnings of his daily toil, with a view to buy a horse, think-

ing that by this acquisition he should be enabled to extend his dealings and double his profits. They persuaded this man to undertake the death of the general by the promise of twenty-eight rubles and the horse on which he had set his mind. Any scruples he might urge against the murder were over-ruled by the argument, that, as the general was of a different religion from theirs, it was no greater sin to kill him than to kill a dog. Seduced by this reasoning and the assurance of a still greater reward, he prepared for the accomplishment of their wishes. On the morning of the first anniversary of their wedding-day, the general and his wife, having determined to celebrate it with

an entertainment, ordered certain arrangements connected with it to be made in a neighbouring wood. The husband, anxious that every thing should be worthy the commemoration of an event which had been so felicitous to him, mounted his horse, and rode towards the thicket to inspect the operations. The peasant had secreted himself among the bushes, he took aim at the general, who sunk to the ground murdered by one of those wretches whose wrongs he had sought to redress. The terrified horse ran back to the house of his master. The blood on his coat and the report of the gun gave the alarm, and the apprehensions of the unhappy lady were soon realized by the appearance

of men bearing the corpse of her husband. The perpetrator of the deed was secured before he could escape: he confessed his guilt and named his accomplices. They were all seized, knouted and sent to Siberia, and their houses burned to the ground.

CHAP. III.

AMUSEMENTS OF THE RUSSIAN CARNIVAL —THE ICE-HILL—CURIOUS SPECTACLE GIVEN BY THE EMPRESS ELIZABETH —SLEDGES—MARKET FOR FROZEN PROVISIONS AT PETERSBURG—DEXTERITY OF THE RUSSIAN PEASANTS IN THE USE OF THE HATCHET—EPICURISM OF THE RUSSIAN NOBLES—TALENT OF THE RUSSIANS FOR IMITATION.

The inhabitants of Petersburg pass the carnival in one continued whirl of merry-making. The streets are filled with men, women and children in their gala dresses, and the gay carriages and sledges of the nobility are ever passing and re-passing. As Lent is very strict-

ly kept among the Russians, the people are resolved to enjoy pleasure in its utmost extravagance, before they are obliged to bid it a temporary farewell. This excess, however, is indulged in by the lower classes only, who are at this season seen intoxicated and perishing in the streets, sacrificed to their mad festivity. Such as survive this unrestrained debauch live very temperately during the fast, on herbs, pulse, honey and fish fried in oil; their beverage, also miserably poor, being nothing but *quass*, a sort of meagre beer diluted with water.

The principal amusement of the Russians during the cold season is the Ice Hill. At Petersburg, when the

Neva is frozen over, a temporary stage of wood is erected about forty or fifty feet above the surface of the river, from the top of which is a steep descent, like the side of an abrupt rock. Against this are laid blocks of ice, which soon become a united mass, by means of torrents of water that are thrown along them, and harden in a few minutes. On the level, at about 250 or 300 yards distance, stands a similar erection, only placed a little on one side, in order to leave a clear road for the sledges darting from the opposite stage. The people mount the first of these stages by means of a flight of steps in the rear, and find at the top a sort of sledge, without projections of any kind, but in

shape and flatness like a butcher's tray, most fantastically and rudely ornamented with carving and colours. This is placed on the margin of the declivity; the bearded native conductor seats himself upon it, very far back, his legs extending in front perfectly straight. The person to be conveyed takes his place before him in a similar attitude, and both remaining steady glide with inconceivable rapidity down the icy descent. The conductor behind guides their course with his hands on the same principles as a vessel is steered, touching the contrary side to that on which he wishes to keep. To such nicety do they attain by practice, that they will

steer round groups of upset persons without doing the smallest injury.

Many go down in these sledges alone; and others, both men and women, on skates, flying forward in a perfectly upright position. Steadiness seems to be the chief accomplishment of the Russian skater, and the velocity of his motion the source of pleasure to the spectator. Here are not seen those graceful motions on the ice in which the skaters of other countries excel: not that the generality of men in this country are incapable of graceful attitudes; but the cumbersomeness of their dress, and the customary modes of this exercise, have never included

any thing more pleasing to the eye than rapid motion.

The sensation excited by the descent in a sledge is at first extremely painful, but after passing a few times through the keen air, it becomes exquisitely pleasurable.

Even private individuals raise such ice-hills in their gardens, and the ball-room is often forsaken for the pleasure of gliding down them. To render this amusement more easy and agreeable, large chairs are fixed on skates, and guided by a man standing behind and also provided with skates. At night these hills are illuminated with coloured lamps, which greatly heighten the effect of the scene.

Round these hills are erected wooden stages or booths, in one of which is exhibited a collection of curious foreign animals; in another rope-dancing; in a third a puppet-show; in a fourth phantasmagoria, and so on. The price of admission to these sights is so trifling, that every one may share in the general gaiety.

The nobility and gentry drive about in superb sledges; and the empress Catherine was often seen riding here among her people. A very large rich sledge was constructed for that purpose, capable of containing the whole imperial family; to which were attached by chains fourteen or sixteen smaller sledges, following in pairs, for

her majesty's suite. These sledges were drawn by twelve or fourteen handsome horses, magnificently caparisoned, and in the evening illuminated with coloured lamps.

It is still the custom in several provinces of Russia to personify the carnival, which is frequently represented by a Bacchus escorted by satyrs and bacchanalians. They parade through the streets with a chariot built for the occasion in a grotesque style. The principal personage is in general a buffoon or clown, who displays various sleight-of-hand tricks to amuse the people. Music and grotesque dancing are sometimes introduced, and add

much to the variety and pleasure of the entertainment.

On one of these occasions the empress Elizabeth gave an extraordinary spectacle consisting of a sort of geographical masquerade. Several months previously to the carnival, she ordered the governors of the provinces to send from each to Petersburg two couple of inhabitants dressed in their national costume, with the necessary accompaniments. Thus, during the carnival of the year 1754, persons belonging to more than forty different nations were seen riding through the streets of the capital—the Kamtschadales on sledges drawn by dogs; the Laplanders on

sledges drawn by rein-deer; the Bucharians on camels; the Calmucks on oxen; the Circassians on the finest coursers; the Indians on enormous elephants;—forming altogether a picturesque group in the nuptial procession of the empress's jester, who personated winter, and was drawn by bears. An immense gallery was built expressly for the occasion, in which each nation amused itself with its own music and dancing, producing thereby a curious confusion of sounds. Each had also a dinner prepared and served in its own fashion. The new-married couple were finally conducted by this same escort to a palace of ice built on the Neva, where all the decorations and furniture were

of ice, even to the bed, the chandeliers, and the pieces of cannon, which fired a salute on the arrival of the extraordinary procession, without bursting.

The extreme cold of winter, which benumbs all nature, seems on the contrary to give fresh elasticity to all the faculties of the Russians. They sing, they laugh, they wrestle; tumbling about like great bears among the snow. In fact this season, which is so long with them, appears to be more congenial with their constitution than their short but vivid summer.

Petersburg never exhibits more bustle and activity than in winter, when sledges and other vehicles cross and pass each other with incredible velo-

Finlander going to Market.

city. The sledge, a prominent feature in every Russian view, is a machine, on which not only the people themselves, but goods of all sorts are conveyed from place to place with extraordinary speed. It consists of a pair of immense skates joined together, on which is placed a seat more or less elegant and commodious, according to the abilities or the wants of the owner. The sledges of the poor are merely formed of logs of wood bound together with plank or matting laid over them, for the accommodation of themselves or their loads. Such is that exhibited in the annexed engraving, which represents a Finlander going to market.

The sledges which succeed the *droshki*,

or hackney-coaches of St. Petersburg, are in general very neat, but always gaudy, being decorated with red, green, gold and silver, strange carved work and uncouth whirligigs of iron. The interior is spread with hay to keep the passenger's feet warm.

The sledge of a prince or nobleman is very handsome. It is built on the same principle with those of inferior people, differing only in the width of the body, which is made to hold two persons. It is warmly lined with rich furs, and to defend the lower extremities of the rider from the cold, it has an apron, like those of our curricles, formed of green or crimson velvet, bordered with gold lace. The servants stand on

a step behind: which place, however, is often occupied by gentlemen when accompanying ladies on a sledge-party.

The horses attached to this kind of sledge, are the pride of the opulent. One only is placed in the shafts and never alters his pace from a rapid trot; while the other is widely traced by his side, and is taught to pace, curvet and prance in the highest style of the *manege*. Their tails and manes are always of enormous length, a beauty so admired by the Russians that twenty horses out of thirty have false ones.

The passion of the Russians for rapid motion has produced the sport called a sledge-race. For this purpose a regular course is railed off and kept

smooth on the Neva. Crowds assemble there to witness the sight. The species of horse used on this occasion is an animal, whose swiftest pace is a peculiar sort of trot, the rapidity of which is incredible, being not at all inferior to that of a gallop.

Porter mentions his having seen two beautiful sledges drawn by reindeer, which were harnessed by the neck and went very swiftly. They belonged to a nobleman of high rank, and were brought merely as objects of curiosity from the country of the Samoyedes, some hundred wersts beyond Archangel. Their appearance in the sledge was remarkably fine, harmonizing most picturesquely with the ice and snows

SLEDGE OF THE RUSSIAN PEASANTS.

of the surrounding view: but the climate of Petersburg is so much too mild for these animals that they seldom outlive one season.

The sledges used in the country are a kind of wide oblong baskets, the hinder part of which can be raised like that of our chaises, so as to shelter the traveller. Others consist of nothing but a platform, on which the driver stands, while his companions sit or stand before or behind him. The annexed plate exhibits a specimen of a vehicle of the latter kind, which is rude and clumsy.

The sandy nature of the soil nearly forbids the use of wheel carriages: in the northern provinces, the wheels

would sink very deep and a great number of horses would be required to draw them; but when sharp frosts have hardened and smoothed the surface of the snow, a small power is sufficient to move enormous weights, and a single horse draws with ease the heaviest sledge.

When a traveller has but one of these carriages at his disposal, he places his baggage at the bottom of it, and covers that with a large feather bed, which serves both to keep the traveller warm and to break his fall in case of accident. He then lays on a quantity of blankets and furs to protect him from the cold. A large hood defends the face, which it is of the utmost importance to pre-

serve from the contact of the external air. The rapidity with which the sledges travel over the smooth surface of the frozen snow is extremely favourable to internal commerce.

The markets of the capital are supplied with much greater ease in winter than in summer. The market of Petersburg exhibits in winter a spectacle of which it is impossible to form any idea in the central regions of Europe. You there behold a vast open square, containing many thousands of animals piled in pyramidal heaps on all sides. Cows, sheep, hogs, fowls, butter, eggs, fish, are all stiffened into granite. The fish are particularly beautiful, possessing the vividness of their living colours,

with the transparent clearness of wax imitations. The beasts present a far less pleasing sight. Most of the larger sorts being skinned and classed according to their species, groups of many hundreds are seen piled up on their hinder legs against one another, as if each were making an effort to climb over the back of its neighbour. The apparent animation of their seemingly struggling attitudes gives a horrid life to this dead scene. Had an enchanter's wand been suddenly waved over this sea of animals during their different actions, they could not have been fixed more decidedly. Their hardness too is extreme: the sellers chop them up like wood for the purchaser, and the

chips fly off from their carcases in the same way as splinters do from timber or coal. A hatchet, the favourite instrument of the country, is used in this operation, as in every other act of ingenuity or strength: indeed, it is sometimes applied to things so nicely delicate, that if the boors were taught to write, I have little doubt, says Porter, but their pens would be made and repaired with it.

The frontispiece to this volume represents a Russian peasant on a journey with his hatchet in his girdle, and a merchant who has travelled eight hundred or a thousand miles on a light sledge to the capital. Whenever I see, says an intelligent observer, one of those bearded

Russians carrying at his back a hatchet, stuck in his girdle, I say to myself—There is an independent man. Provided with this implement, the Russian can dispense with all others and is fit for every thing: it serves for hammer, saw, pincers, plane, and chisel. Employ him in what you please, he earns his livelihood with his hatchet. To a person who comes from a country where the mechanical arts have pressed into their service the most improved apparatus of every kind, it is a singular sight to behold the wonderful simplicity of the means and the celerity of the processes of the Russian artisan. He never thinks of sawing a plank or a beam, his hatchet cuts it in two in a moment. If

he has nails to drive, the back of the hatchet head serves for a hammer: with it he cuts grooves, and makes fluting and mouldings. His hatchet is as sharp as a razor, and he uses it with mathematical precision. With his hatchet in his girdle he wants no great stock of tools. You cannot tell whether he is master, journeyman or apprentice: whether mason, sculptor, carpenter, stone-cutter, artizan or artist, he always appears in the same costume—a coarse shirt and wide canvas trowsers form the whole wardrobe of this industrious man. The artist who executes a statue for a palace goes barefoot; his bed is in the dust, among the fragments scattered

about his workshop; and his workshop is in the open air.

But to return to the market. The provisions brought to Petersburg are the produce of countries many thousand wersts beyond Moscow. Siberia and Archangel furnish part of the merchandize which, during the severity of the frost, is conveyed thither on sledges. In consequence of the abundance of these commodities and the short period allowed for the duration of the market, they are cheaper than at any other part of the year, and are therefore bought in large quantities to be laid up as winter stock. When deposited in cellars they keep good for a great length of time.

Vender of Spirituous Liquors.

Pub^{d} by R. Ackermann, London [illegible]

At certain hours every day, the market, while it lasts, is a fashionable lounge. There you meet all the beauty and gaiety of Petersburg, from the imperial family to the tradesman's wife. Incredible crowds of sledges, carriages and pedestrians, throng the place, where the different groups of spectators, purchasers, venders and commodities, form a scene not to be paralleled in any other city.

In summer the transport of commodities is much more difficult. The peasants are then obliged to carry them on their heads or in baskets. Such is the figure in the opposite plate.—A vender of liquors carrying a basket with an assortment of bottles of

different sizes, containing strong liquors. Dealers have baskets of various forms, containing the commodities which they carry for sale to the market of Petersburg.

The Luculluses and Apiciuses of Russia, however, would be exceedingly dissatisfied, if their tables we recovered in winter with such provisions only as the convenience of transport in that season furnishes so abundantly. It is their greatest pride to surmount the difficulties of the climate, and to procure all those superfluities and luxuries which nature has been disposed to deny them. They strive, as it were, to cheat themselves into a belief that they reside in one of the southern countries of Europe.

Hence they carry their daintiness to a much greater length than the inhabitants of temperate regions: cauliflowers, spinach, green peas, asparagus, cucumbers, salad herbs, and radishes, are much more common in winter on good tables in Petersburg than they are in London or Paris, with persons of equal rank and fortune. We cheerfully defer for a few weeks a treat which must be purchased at an enormous expense; while the Russians who, according to the regular course of things, would have to wait several months, spare nothing to overcome nature and to anticipate the order of the seasons.

In the month of January, a pound of

French beans or green peas, for they are sold by weight, costs at Petersburg from twenty-five to thirty rubles, about six pounds sterling; and a single cucumber is sometimes sold for three or four rubles, (from twelve to sixteen shillings.)

The nobles of Moscow are not less particular in regard to the supply of their tables: they have them covered in the depth of winter with the fruit of every climate ripened in hot-houses, and vegetables of all sorts produced by artificial culture. A constant heat is kept up by stoves in subterraneous gardens, from which the external air is carefully excluded. Green peas and

asparagus are as common at Moscow about Christmas as potatoes and winter cabbages in other countries.

They consume, on the other hand, a prodigious quantity of ice. There is not a country, Italy itself not excepted, where this refreshing substance is so common. The ice-houses are dug to a great depth; a fresh stock of ice is laid in every year, and as it is never exhausted, the lowerpart remains untouched. It is said that there are ice-houses in Moscow where the ice has been thus accumulating for a century; and the mass in them is so compact, that when wanted for use it must be broken with a hatchet. The order of the seasons is therefore inverted in those two great

cities, the subterraneous vaults of which contain ice in summer and grow vegetables in winter.

The extraordinary talent of the Russians for imitation is well known: the only nation perhaps which surpasses them in this respect is the Chinese. Clarke says, that if they were instructed in the art of painting they would become the finest portrait-painters in the world. In proof of this he informs us, that he saw a miniature portrait of the emperor Paul, executed by a poor slave, who had only once seen him during the visit he made to Moscow. In regard to resemblance and minuteness of representation it was a most astonishing work. The effect produced was like that of

beholding the original through a diminishing lens.

The Birmingham trinket manufactory, in which imitations of jewellery and precious metals are wrought with so much cheapness, is surpassed in Moscow, because the workmanship is equally good and the things themselves are cheaper. But the great source of wonder is in the manner of their execution. At Birmingham they are the workmanship of many persons, in Moscow of one only. In cutlery the Russians are not equally successful, because that art requires a multiplication of labour. They fail, therefore, in hardware, not because they are incapable of imitating the works they import, but

because they cannot afford to sell them for the same price. Where a patent, as in the instance of Bramah's locks, has kept up the price of an article in England beyond the level it would otherwise find, the Russians have imitated such works with the greatest perfection, and sold the copy at a lower rate than the original, though equally valuable.

This extraordinary talent for imitation has been shewn also in the fine arts. A picture by Dietrici, in the style of Polemberg, was borrowed by one of the Russian nobility from his friend. The owner had impressed his seal upon the back of it, and written upon it verses and mottoes of his own composition. With so many marks he thought

the picture safe any where: but so perfect a copy was finished, both as to the painting and all the circumstances of colour in the canvas, the seal and the inscriptions, that, when put into the frame of the original and returned to its owner, the fraud was not discovered. This circumstance was afterwards made known by the confession of the artist employed.

A nobleman, celebrated for skill and judgment in painting, has been known to purchase of a dealer copies made a few days before by one of his own slaves, who went from his easel to his more usual and daily occupation of blacking shoes, and afterwards got drunk with the wages of his ingenuity.

The palaces of the nobles in Moscow, prior to the destruction of that city, were filled with pictures. It seems, says Clarke, as if all Europe had been ransacked to supply such collections. At first view a room adorned by them has an imposing and very brilliant appearance; but, upon a nearer approach, the charm vanishes; they are almost all copies and the major part of them brought from Vienna. As the nobles have rarely any money at command, their traffic in the fine arts, as in other things, is carried on by exchange.—They purchase a picture with a carriage or an embroidered suit of clothes, just as they pay their physician with a snuff-box.

The same traveller adds, that Dr. Rogerson of Petersburg, as he was informed, regularly received his snuff-box for his attendance and as regularly carried it to a jeweller for sale. The jeweller sold it again to the first nobleman who wanted a fee for his physician, so that the doctor obtained his box again; and at last the matter became so well understood between the jeweller and the physician, that it was considered by both parties as a sort of bank-note, and no words were necessary in transacting the sale of it.

CHAP. VI.

EQUIPAGES—THE DROSCHKI—THE KIBITKA.

The carriages of the Russians differ widely from ours. They are not kept in the cleanest state, and not a drop of oil or any other liquid is ever applied to the harness or the other leather appurtenances of the carriage to soften their rigidity.

At Petersburg, indeed, carriages are not articles of mere luxury and ostentation: they are absolutely necessary, either on account of the great distances, or the snow, the dust, or the mud, with

which the streets are covered according to the season. Hence it has been jocosely observed that in this capital the wheels never touch the pavement.

Most carriages are drawn by four horses, so that besides the coachman there is always a postillion. The latter is in general a boy, who, contrary to the practice of other countries, rides the off-horse, and while the horses are going at full speed, is continually bawling out *Padi!*—"Take care!"

The decorations of the horses driven by the nobility are very striking. Their harness is leather, most profusely spread, almost into net-work, over the animal, studded and embossed with brass, and various other knobs, buckles,

crescents and tassels, with great taste and elegance. This caparison is quite eastern, and has a most superb effect. The horses are in harmony with their ornaments; their manes and tails are allowed to grow to an immense length, and are plaited and tied up very gracefully.

The figure of the horse in Russia is very fine: it has something of the shape and air of the Persian. His motions are loose and rapid and apparently so wild, that the spectator must suppose nature to have been his only master.

Hackney-coaches, in the form of ours, are not known; the *droschki*, which supplies the deficiency, has at first sight an appearance extremely odd

DROSCHKY.

and ridiculous. It bears not the least affinity to any of our wheel-carriages, but looks more like a gigantic insect of the grasshopper tribe, pursuing and clinging to the heels of an affrighted horse.

This effort of northern ingenuity runs on four low wheels, being a sort of parallelogram, with four leather wings projecting at no great distance from its body, and which, making an unexpected curve, pass in a semicircular line towards the ground, being intended as a resting-place for the feet and a defence for the traveller against liquid dirt. The seat is covered with a cushion and hangs on springs. The occupier of the carriage seats himself

as on a saddle, and for his better security, if he is not accustomed to this kind of vehicle, he holds by the sash of the driver, who is seated in front. It requires no small degree of education in the art of keeping a seat to adhere with any decency, much less ease, to the seat of one of these extraordinary vehicles; and yet, while an Englishman would be bouncing off and on, the Russians are so perfected by practice as to sit their wooden horse with all the elegance of an accomplished equestrian. They pass from one part of the town to another with incredible lightness and velocity, at the rate of about a shilling for three miles. Hence most of the lower orders can

at times command this accommodation, so that servant-maids going out on errands occasionally treat themselves to a *droschki*, charging the expense to their masters or mistresses, who cheerfully pay it, being amply indemnified by the saving of time. Its many inconveniences, however, arising from the exposure of the occupier to the dust and sun in summer, and to the mud and rain in spring and autumn, render it a vehicle totally incompatible with any ideas of personal neatness or comfort. The *isvotchic*, or driver, has a plate fastened on his back, on which are inscribed the number of his carriage and the quarter to which he belongs. As there is not an absolutely

prescribed fare for given distances, strangers are frequently imposed on by these men, who, like the hackney-coachmen in London, are ever ready to overreach the unwary. Upon the whole this spirit of extortion is very common at Petersburg; the shopkeepers and others of the lower orders making a practice of demanding double the worth of their commodities.

The *kibitka*, the usual vehicle for travelling in the interior of Russia, represented in the opposite plate, is a well-contrived snug machine, which may be purchased for 35 rubles, or five guineas. Its form is simple, for it is nothing more than a large wooden cradle, fixed on a double keel of the

same material, strongly shod with iron. The trunks are placed at the head and foot; and the intermediate space is filled with hay, mattresses and pillows. The travellers, wrapped up in pelisses, and in furred caps and boots, lie down side by side, as if in bed.

The horses, generally four in number, are harnessed abreast to this vehicle as to the chariots of old. The traces are ropes, and the driver sits on a box in front of the *kibitka.* The steeds which thus imitate the fashion of the heroic ages, are unfortunately every thing that is wretched and mean in appearance; they are diminutive, with matted coats and clotted tails and

manes, but of incredible speed and bottom.

As there are no good inns on the high-roads, travellers are obliged to take with them provisions and all sorts of conveniences. The houses of the post-masters are the only places where refreshments can be procured for the weary traveller, and those are confined to tea and coffee.

CHAP. V.

SUNDAY MARKET AT MOSCOW—BENEDICTION OF FRUIT—ETIQUETTE OF A RUSSIAN ENTERTAINMENT—DWARFS—MARRIAGE OF A PIGMY COUPLE.

The market on Sunday at Moscow is an entertaining spectacle. From five in the morning till eight, the spacious Place de Gallitzin is filled by a concourse of peasants and people of all classes, coming to buy or sell white peacocks, fan-tailed and other curious pigeons, dogs of all sorts for the sopha or the chace, singing-birds, poultry, guns, pistols, in short whatever chance

or custom may have rendered saleable. The sellers, excepting in the market of singing-birds, which is permanent and very large, have no shops, but remain with their wares either exposed upon stalls, or hawking them about in their hands. On Easter-day in particular, this market is thronged with itinerant butchers, one of whom is represented in the opposite plate. It should be observed that there are no people who observe Lent with more scrupulous rigour than the Russians. Clarke informs us, that, while travelling from Petersburg to Moscow, if at any time in poor cottages where the peasants appeared to be starving, he offered them part of his dinner, they would

BUTCHER OF MOSCOW.

Pub by R. Ackermann London 182[illegible]

shudder at the sight of it and cast it to the dogs; dashing out of their children's hands, as an abomination, any food given to them, and removing every particle that might be left entirely from their sight. In drinking tea with a Cossack, he not only refused to have milk in his cup, but would not use a spoon that had been in tea with milk, although wiped carefully in a napkin, until it had passed through scalding water. In proportion as this rigour has been observed, so much the more excessive is the degree of gluttony and relaxation when the important intelligence, that "Christ is risen," has issued from the mouth of the archbishop. The night before the ceremony of the

resurrection all the markets and shops of Moscow are filled with flesh, butter, eggs, pigs, poultry and every kind of viand. The opposite plate represents one of the venders of poultry and feathered game in appropriate costume. The crowd of purchasers is immense. There is scarcely a foot passenger, who has not his hands, nay, his arms filled with provisions, or a single *droschki* that is not ready to break down under their weight.

But to return to the Sunday market at Moscow.—The pigeon-feeders are distinguished in the midst of the mob by long white wands, which they carry to direct the pigeons in their flight. The nobles take great delight in these

ITINERANT POULTERER.

Pub by R. Ackermann London 1822.

birds: and a favourite pair will sell at from five to ten rubles. It is astonishing to see the feeders, by way of exhibiting their birds, let them fly and recover them again at pleasure. The principal recommendation of the pigeons consists in their rising to a great height by a spiral curve, all flying one way and following each other. When a bird does not keep the line of curvature which the others take, the feeder whistles, waves his wand, and its course is immediately changed. During such exhibitions the nobles stake their money in wagers, betting on the height to which a pigeon will ascend, and the number of curves it will make in so doing

In this market Dr. Clarke fell into a singular mistake. Seeing several stalls apparently covered with wheat, he approached to examine its quality, but was surprised to find that it was in reality heaps of large ants' eggs. Near the same stalls were tubs full of pismires, crawling among the eggs and over the persons of those who sold them. Both the eggs and the ants are brought for sale as food for nightingales, which are favourite though common birds in Russian houses, where they sing in every respect as beautifully as in their native woods. The price of one of them in full song is about fifteen rubles. The Russians, by rattling beads on their tables of tangible arithmetic, can make

the birds sing at pleasure during the day; but nightingales are heard throughout the night making the city resound the melodies of the forest.

The stalls of fruit and food in the streets of Moscow prove very beneficial to the health of the people. At these places they obtain a wholesome dinner for a few copecks. A plate of boiled rice, over which is poured a little honey, here costs about a penny English. In the spring they sell, at these stalls, apples, which they have a remarkable method of preserving through the winter; baked pears; salad, salted cucumbers, which are antiscorbutic, and esteemed delicious by Russians of every rank; wild berries; boiled rice; quass;

honey, and mead. As almost every eatable receives a formal benediction from the priests before it is considered fit for use, no Russian will touch any article of food until that ceremony has taken place. A particular church is set apart for the benediction of apples; and this is not given until the first apple drops from the tree, which is brought in great form to the priest. A Mahometan would sooner eat pork, than a Russian unconsecrated fruit.

The curious spectacle presented at the dinners of the Russian nobility, has no parallel in the rest of Europe. The dishes and wines correspond in gradation with the rank and condition of the guests. Those who have the honour

to sit near the master of the house have no connexion with the fare or the tenants of the lower end of the table; and nothing would so much distress a Russian prince, as sending for a portion of the soup or the viands which are there placed. That which he intends for the gratification of the favoured few around him is generally carried to them; nor is it usual to ask for any thing. The number of persons in waiting is prodigious. It is no uncommon sight to observe behind a chair a fellow in plumes and gold, like a Neapolitan running footman, and another by his side looking like a beggar from the streets.

Dwarfs form a favourite portion of

each nobleman's establishment. They are the pages and playthings of the great, and at almost all entertainments stand for hours by their lord's chair, holding his snuff-box or awaiting his commands. These little creatures are generally the most gaily dressed persons in his service, and are attired in a very costly livery. In the presence of their owner, their usual station is at his elbow; and during his absence they are responsible for the cleanliness and combed locks of their companions of the canine species.

Besides these Lilliputians, many of the nobility keep a fool or two, like the *motleys* of our court in the days of Elizabeth; but like in name alone, for

their wit, if they ever had any, is swallowed up by indolence. Living well and doing nothing, their bodies swell to the most disgusting size; and lying about in the corners of some splendid saloon, they sleep profoundly, till awakened by the command of their lord to amuse the company. Shaking their enormous bulk, they rise from their trance, and, supporting their unwieldy trunks against the wall, drawl out their heavy nonsense.

The dwarfs, on the contrary, are generally well-shaped, and their hands and feet particularly graceful: indeed, in the proportion of their figures, we should no where discover them to be flaws in the economy of nature, were

it not for a peculiarity of feature, and the size of the head, which is commonly much enlarged. Their race is very diminutive and very numerous in Russia. Take them on the whole, they are such compact, and even pretty little beings, that no idea can be formed of them from the clumsy deformed dwarfs exhibited at our fairs in England. It is curious to observe how nearly they all resemble each other: their features are all so much alike, that it might be supposed one pair had spread their progeny over the whole country.

Porter gives the following description of some of the dwarfs whom he met with in his first visit to Russia, in

1806 and 1807 :—" The dwarf of the governor-general of Moscow is about forty years of age, has a good-tempered countenance, but his features and expression have an appearance to the eye as if he washed his face with alum-water. It is a sort of wizened, sharp look, inconceivable probably without being seen. He is nevertheless cheerful, docile, and of a remarkably gentle temper. His height is forty-two inches. The next of his race who excited my attention measured forty inches and a quarter, was twenty-five years of age, gay and sensible. He was the property of a naval officer. Count Alexei Orloff has one or two much more juvenile and several inches shorter than the

P 2

above; but all inferior in beauty and delicacy of proportion to the celebrated Polish dwarf, Count Borulawski.—In Russia dwarfs are known to live to a great age, and one, a female, who had been a favourite with Peter the Great, is mentioned by Porter as having died at Petersburg very lately.

During the reign of that monarch, his sister Natalia collected all the dwarfs from around the capital, in order to celebrate the marriage of a couple of these Lilliputians. The rite was solemnized with much folly and pomp. The number of the assembly amounted to ninety-three, all displayed in open carriages, adapted to their size, and drawn by the smallest horses that

could be procured. Many were brought from Shetland for the purpose. A magnificent entertainment and ball were given at court; and to complete the absurdity, the princess, attended by the nobility, conducted the little pair to a state-bed. Whether the union of this pigmy couple produced any issue is not recorded.

Giants are also in request in Russia; but they are not very numerous, and are far surpassed in stature by those who are occasionally imported into this country from Ireland, for the purpose of exhibition.

CHAP. VI.

THE MALORUSSIANS—NEATNESS OF THEIR VILLAGES—THEIR COSTUME—MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS—THEIR HONESTY.

The governments of Kiew, Novogorod, Peversky and some parts of Polish Ukraine formerly constituted Little Russia. Though sprung from the same race as the other Russians, the inhabitants of Little Russia had not much intercourse with their countrymen. They long formed a distinct republic, and were divided into regiments and companies, each company having its chief place and its captain. They called

themselves Tcherkasses or Cossacks. When, after a separation of three centuries, they were reunited to Russia, they formed a very different people by their manners, language and constitution. This difference still exists. In 1784 the Malorussians lost their military organization and were taxed like the Russian peasants.

They are not, however, attached to the soil, like the latter, but are strangers to servitude. No other cause need be sought for their manifest superiority in every thing that can exalt one set of men above another. They are cleaner, more industrious, more honest, more generous, more polite, more courageous, more hospitable, more truly pious,

and of course less superstitious. They are of taller stature, have more ruddy complexions, a more serious disposition and are less addicted to intoxication than the other Russians. Their language only differs from the Russian as the dialect of the southern provinces of France does from that spoken in Paris.

Clarke thus describes the first of their establishments to which he came on his journey from Woronetz to the Don. It was called Locova Sloboda. The houses were all whitewashed like many of the cottages in Wales, and this operation is performed annually with great care. Such distinguishing cleanliness appeared within them, that a traveller

might fancy himself transported in the course of a few miles from Russia to Holland. Their apartments, even the ceilings and the beams in the roof, are regularly washed. Their tables and benches shine with washing and rubbing, and reminded us of the interior of cottages in Norway. Their court-yard, stables and out-houses, with every thing belonging to them, bespoke industry and neatness. In their little kitchens, instead of the darkness and smoky hue of the Russians, even the mouths of their stoves were white. Their utensils and domestic vessels were all bright and well polished. They kept poultry and had plenty of cattle. Their little gardens were filled with fruit-trees,

which gave an English character to their houses.

These people in their features resemble Cossacks, and both bear a similitude to the Poles, being doubtless all derived from one common stock.

The Malorussian women wear a petticoat, sometimes of one piece of cloth fastened round the waist; at others, particularly among more aged females, this petticoat consists of two pieces, like aprons, fastened on before and behind. It is chequered like the Scotch plaid, and answers to the kelt worn in certain parts of Scotland to this day.

On the forehead of the young females, if they wear any thing, is a simple *ban-*

OLD WOMAN OF LITTLE RUSSIA.

Pub by R. Ackermann London [illegible]

deau, with a bunch of flowers.—The married women wear caps of gold cloth, and such as are elderly fasten round the head a large handkerchief, the ends of which hang down behind, as represented in the opposite plate. A species of finery of which these people are very fond consists of antique coins strung together, or false pieces sold to them for the purpose, which imitate the ancient coin of their own and of other countries, hanging down their backs.

The necks of the girls are encircled with several rows of large red beads falling over the breast, and both men and women wear rings, with glass gems. The hair of unmarried women hangs in

a long braid down the back, terminated by a ribbon with a knot.

The men shave the beard, leaving the mustaches; they also shave the head with the exception of a tuft of hair on the crown. They wear caps in the Polish fashion, bordered with lamb-skin, and go with the breast constantly bare. The upper garment is a caftan of very coarse cloth, with a hood.—Brown is the colour which they prefer. A girdle is fastened over this caftan, the seams of which are generally embroidered and sometimes laced. Pantaloons and boots either black or of some other colour complete their dress. See the engraving.

VILLAGER OF LITTLE RUSSIA.

Pub. by R. Ackermann London [illegible]

The Malorussians, when they dwell on the domains of nobles, are but their farmers, and are then called *sosedi*, which signifies neighbours. An art in which they excel is the making of cider and wines from different sorts of fruit, good specimens of which are to be found in the meanest cottages.

The musical instruments of these people are the bagpipe and double pipes of reed. The former like those used in North Britain and Finland, is common to the Cossacks as well as to the Malorussians. The latter are six inches in length and not thicker than a goose-quill: both are played at once. This method of playing on the pipe is very

ancient, as may be seen in many antique basso-relievos and in the monuments of Herculaneum.

The Malorussians, it is said, never lock their doors or their chests; and you may send an open trunk five hundred miles without losing any of its contents. Mr. Rowan, banker of Moscow was travelling on the banks of the Don, when his carriage broke down and he was obliged to leave it. The honest peasants, after setting it to rights, brought it unsolicited, safe to him at Taganrock, with all its appurtenances and contents.

CHAP. VII.

RELIGION OF THE RUSSIANS—ORDERS OF THE GREEK PRIESTHOOD—MONKS—NUNS—THE DIVITCHY CONVENT—THE TROITZA CONVENT—ITS IMMENSE WEALTH.

The Russians were not converted to Christianity till towards the end of the tenth century. A Greek was the first metropolitan of Russia, subordinate to the patriarch of Constantinople; but in 1588 the patriarch Jeremiah, who filled the see of the ancient capital of the Greek empire, ordained Job, archbishop of Novogorod, patriarch. The power of this prelate having become

dangerous from its abuse by turbulent minds, Peter the Great abolished the patriarchate, and established a synod, composed of several members, elected from among the bishops and the archimandrites. This synod regulates all spiritual matters in absolute dependence on the sovereign.

The Greek religion, which has adopted the Athanasian creed, differs very little, in regard to doctrines, from the Romish church: both admit the same sacraments, and attribute to them the same effect; but the ceremonies practised in the administration of these sacraments vary.

There are five orders in the Greek priesthood:—bishops, priests, deacons,

sub-deacons, and readers, including singers. The episcopal order has other distinctions, metropolitan, archbishop, and bishop. The first two titles are not attached to any particular see, but depend entirely upon the will of the emperor; they merely confer rank, with very little addition of power, as every bishop is independent in his own diocese.

The clergy are divided into regular and secular. The former are of the monastic order; the latter are the parochial ministers. The secular clergy are called *papas* (fathers); and their highest dignity is that of *proto-papa*, or first priest in a great church, where there are several of the same order.

They are allowed to marry once; but never a second time, upon pain of being expelled from their holy profession.

The Russian monks follow the rules of St. Basil. The principal of a monastery is called either *archimandrite* or *hegumen;* the one is equivalent to abbot or father, the other to prior. The papas, or parochial clergy, wear a long gown and a round hat, and let the beard grow. The monks have a train of a darker colour, and a cap nearly resembling that of the Armenians. They usually carry a long cane in one hand, and a chaplet in the other, as may be seen in the annexed plate. The archimandrites have round their necks chains, from which are suspended

REGULAR MONK

[illegible]

crosses and other distinctive marks of their condition.

The superior of a nunnery is called *hegumena*. Though men may profess themselves monks at the age of thirty women may not become nuns till they are fifty, These devotees are divided into three degrees: the probationers, or novices, the proficients, and the perfect. The dress of a probationer is a black cassock, called *rhæsa;* and a hood of the same colour, called *camelauch*, from being made of camel hair. Proficients wear an upper cloak, called *mandyas*, or the less habit (see the plate), to distinguish it from the great habit, or angelic image, as it is called. Nuns of the third or perfect degree always

wear the hood or veil down, and never, after they have assumed it, suffer their faces to be seen.

The Divitchy convent near Moscow where Sophia, the ambitious and turbulent sister of Peter the Great passed the concluding years of her life, contained in 1806, about 150 nuns, seventy-five only of whom had taken the vows, in token of which their heads are shaved. This is not done before the age of fifty years, when they are allowed to make their profession. Till that period they remain novices: meanwhile they are at perfect liberty to prefer the matrimonial to the monastic vows; the gates of the monastery being open all day, and permission granted them

to go out and receive visitors without restraint. They have each a separate apartment and every reasonable comfort. The abbess is chosen from among the widows of merchants, and, provided she be of unexceptionable character, may be elected without having been attached to any religious institution.

The dress of the nuns of the Divitchy is a black habit with wide sleeves; the whole lined with reddish brown. A black velvet cap fits close to their shaven heads, coming down over the ears and under the chin in a sort of bandage. The novices have a cap pointed at the top. The hair is plaited, hangs down behind of immense length: the fashion of the hair marking the un-

sworn vestal state, as the nuns who have taken the vows are deprived of theirs. Their robe is of black cloth, with tight sleeves.

According to the rules of these institutions, nuns must not pass their time in idleness; but must always be employed in some kind of work, such as spinning, sewing, making lace, &c. for which purpose proper teachers are provided. The superiors are directed to admonish those who desire to be admitted against the will of their relations, as husbands who forsake their wives, wives who forsake their husbands; parents, who by imprudent vows would sacrifice their children to a monastic life; and to remind them that such

resolutions are displeasing to God and contrary to the doctrine of Christ. The excellence of these regulations, when compared with those of the monasteries of the Latin church, is extremely striking; and the care with which the young and inexperienced are guarded against the superstition of celibacy cannot be too highly commended. The nation is indebted for this liberal monastic code to Peter the Great.

The Troitza, or convent of the Trinity, at some distance from Moscow, is one of the most wonderful places in the empire for splendour and riches. It is a treasure-house of gold, diamonds, pearls, and every precious endowment with which piety can adorn a holy

place. The tomb of St. Sergius, in the church of this monastery, is decorated with a canopy of massy silver, supported by large pillars of the same metal. The screen is of the most magnificent workmanship, and the hallowed utensils are covered with jewels. Most churches have several costly dresses for the bishops and officiating priests. These are generally made of the embroidered palls brought into the church with the bodies of deceased nobles buried there: but the sacred habiliments of the Troitza are of the most superb order. There are fifteen different magnificent vestments for the archimandrite of this monastery, and as many mitres of gold enriched with

jewels. One of the ornaments of this priest, worn on his breast instead of a cross, was given to the church by the empress Elizabeth, and cost £16,000. One of his robes, which he wears on Easter-day, made of crimson velvet, embroidered with pearls, is valued at £14,000. A description of all the other vestments and the variety of crucifixes, mitres, pyxes, and relics in gold cases glittering with gems, would tire the patience of the reader.

END OF VOL. I.

GREEN, LEICESTER STREET, LEICESTER SQUARE.